



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cyber Storm Exercise Series is part of the Department's ongoing efforts to assess and strengthen cyber preparedness; examine incident response processes in response to ever-evolving threats, and enhance information sharing among Federal, state, international and private sector partners. The latest installment of the series, Cyber Storm IV (CS IV), is designed as a set of building block exercises, which began in fall 2011 and will conclude in 2012. This exercise design promotes more focused exercise activities, allowing participants to delve deeper into particular cyber issues. Members of the cyber incident response community are actively collaborating with DHS in the design and execution of these building block exercises. Observations and findings from exercises will inform National Level Exercise 2012 (NLE 12) planning activities, continue to enhance the cyber incident response community's capabilities, and support the Nation's ongoing resilience efforts.

Cyber Storm IV Objectives

CS IV's objectives are designed to address cybersecurity preparedness and response capabilities through a series of building block exercise activities. These activities will further national efforts to strengthen cyber response while positioning DHS and its stakeholders for successful participation in NLE 12. CS IV's objectives are:

- Identify, exercise, and foster the improvement of processes, procedures, interactions, and information sharing mechanisms that exist, or should exist, under the National Cyber Incident Response Plan (NCIRP).
- Examine the role of DHS and its associated components during a global cyber event.
- Exercise coordination mechanisms, information sharing efforts, development of shared situational awareness, and decision-making procedures of the cybersecurity community (Federal, State, private-sector, international) during cyber events.
- Maintain awareness of other cyber exercise initiatives.

Building the Nation's Cyber Resilience

Exercises like the Cyber Storm serve enhance cyber incident response capabilities, promote public awareness, and reduce cyber risk. CS IV provides the cyber incident response community with the opportunity to conduct focused exercises that evaluate specific capabilities. Through these exercises, the cyber incident response community will be able to improve both their capabilities and response processes, thus bolstering the Nation's cyber resilience.

CS IV exercises focus on the role of the Department and its associated components during a cyber event. These exercises will assess the quality of the incident response processes, procedures, interactions, and information sharing mechanisms that exist under the NCIRP. Through these efforts, DHS will enhance the Nation's ability to respond to a cyber incident.

CS IV Quick Facts

CS IV Pillars

- Cybersecurity Centers
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Critical Infrastructure Sectors
- Federal Government
- State and Local Government
- International Partners

Building Block Exercises

- NCIRP Exercise
- Cyber Center Directors' TTX
- Public Affairs TTX Series
- States Exercise Series
- CS&C Exercises
- Critical Infrastructure Exercises
- International Engagements

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Additional Information

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